

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action of January 23, 2007, the Examiner stated that claim 23 was not considered as being dependent from claim 22, a non-elected claim. Claim 23, as presented in the Preliminary Amendment, depends from claim 1 and it not clear if claim 23 has been considered as it is indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract and Disclosure for minor informalities. By this Amendment, a new Abstract is presented, typographical errors in paragraphs [0001] and [0004] have been corrected and a brief description of Figure 10 is added. No new matter is added by these amendments.

The Examiner objected to claims 23, 25 and 27-29 and stated that the term "element" should read "device." With this Amendment the term "actuating device" has been changed to "actuating element" throughout the claims. The Examiner also rejected claims 23 and 25-27, as certain phrases lacked antecedent basis and these terms have been changed.


The Examiner rejected claims 1, 26 and 28 as being anticipated by U.S. 6,148,507 (Swanson et al.) and claim 29 as obvious over Swanson et al. in view of either U.S. 2,365,147 or 4,856,316. The Examiner indicated, in paragraph 12, that claims 23, 25 and 27 would be allowable if the minor informalities were overcome. By this Amendment, claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 1. Minor changes to the wording of claim 1 have been made when incorporating the subject matter into claim 23. It is not believed that these changes affect the patentability of the claim.

With this Amendment, and the indication of allowable subject matter, the claims are allowable over the prior art. Favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

If any fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher J. McDonald  
Reg. No. 41,533

April 23, 2007

HOFFMAN, WASSON & GITLER, P.C.  
2461 South Clark Street  
Suite 522  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(703) 415-0100

Attorney's Docket: A-8923.RF.AMA/bh